

REMARKS

In this amendment, Claims 1, 17 and 18 have been amended and Claims 3, 4 and 10 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 12-15, 17-19 and 21 remain in the application with Claims 1, 17 and 18 being the only independent claims. Favorable reconsideration, in view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 4 of the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected Claim 1-10, 12-15, 17-19 and 21 under the provisions of 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,915,504 to Doricht in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,297,430 to Sonderegger et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the amendments to the claims.

As amended, Claim 1 now defines the invention as a disc brake comprising: two brake shoes, which for generating a clamping force are pressable against both sides of a brake disc; a conversion device, which is connectable to a motor and which converts a driving motion of the motor into an actuating motion for actuating at least one of the brake shoes; a support device for taking up a reaction force, which upon generation of the clamping force is introduced into the conversion device; and two or more force sensors for measuring at least a fraction of the reaction force; wherein a bearing is disposed between opposing faces of the conversion device and the support device and the two or more force sensors are fastened in or on a component of the bearing spaced apart at different positions between the conversion device and the support device; and wherein each of the two or more sensors comprises a carrier substrate and a piezoresistive layer having a bridge configuration applied on a planar outer surface of the carrier substrate, the outer surface of the carrier substrate facing the support device. None of the cited references, alone or in combination, discloses such a disc brake as now recited in Claim 1.

Sonderegger et al. generally discloses the use of a piezoelectric sensing element 6. However, Sonderegger et al. does not disclose or suggest “wherein each of the two or more sensors comprises a carrier substrate and a piezoresistive layer having a bridge configuration applied on a planar outer surface of the carrier substrate, the outer

surface of the carrier substrate facing the support device", as now recited in Claim 1. Rather, in "load" washer type of device of Sonderegger et al, the piezoelectric material of the sensors 1 is fully enclosed or housed between the nut 2 and cover 4. Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 1, along with dependent Claims 2, 5-9 and 12-15, are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 17 has been amended in a similar manner to that of Claim 1. Thus, for those reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, it is believed that Claim 17, along with dependent Claim 19, are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 18 has been generally been amended in a similar manner to that of Claim 1. Thus, for those reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, it is believed that Claim 18, along with dependent Claim 21, are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner does not believe that the above amendments to the claims place the application in condition for allowance, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to discuss the application and the prior art references prior to the issuance of an action by the Examiner.